

Funds will benefit Washington, Columbiana, and Athens counties

Washington D.C. – Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) is pleased to announce that more than \$700,000 in federal grants have been awarded to Ohio's 6th district.

The Marietta Memorial Hospital (MMH) will receive a \$250,000 grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for a new nursing unit on the hospital's fourth floor. MMH has experienced record numbers of patients in recent years and often has a full emergency room with patients left waiting for beds. This grant will help create 30-40 new full time nursing positions and enable the hospital to purchase 24 new post-intensive care beds. The new station will result in improved healthcare for about 1,680 patients during the first year after the beds are installed.

"Creating jobs is my top priority," Wilson said. "Congratulations to the Marietta Memorial Hospital both for creating jobs and improving the quality of our area's healthcare".

ARC has also awarded \$156,000 for the Wellsville Intermodal Industrial Park in order to make improvements to an access road. According to the ARC's release, the improvements will span approximately 1,600 feet of roadway along Clark Avenue from the State Route 7 interchange to the intersection of River Road in Wellsville. This project will not only provide access to the park, but will help retain 55 jobs and promote economic development in the area.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has awarded a grant of \$221,250 to Ohio University's College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-COM) from the National Institute of Diabetes, Digestive, and Kidney Diseases. The funding will aid research in Type 1 Diabetes, specifically to help understand the disease's causes and evaluate the effectiveness of a new possible treatment. OU-COM specializes in diabetes research.

"This grant is particularly helpful for our area," Wilson said. "11.3 percent of Appalachian Ohio's population has diabetes. That's much higher than the nationwide rate of 7.5 percent."

The U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) has announced that Ohio University has been awarded a \$25,155 federal grant for the improvement of the telecommunications program's equipment. The funds are being distributed through the National Communications and Information Administration. The grant will support the replacement of interconnection equipment for WOUB-FM, WOUC-FM, WOUH-FM, WOUL-FM, and WOUZ-FM.

Finally, ARC has also awarded a federal grant of \$50,000 to the Salem Community Center Youth Fitness Program. In an effort to fight childhood obesity, these funds will be used to provide fitness training and health education for more than 2,700 students and intensive programs for 125 children.

"This is federal money being put to great use," Wilson said. "That's over \$700,000 headed to our area that will help create jobs and improve public health and safety in our region."

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